

**Application No.: 10/714,941****Docket No.: 2038-306****ABSTRACT**

A disposable diaper includes a top sheet, a liquid impervious back sheet, and a liquid absorbent core disposed therebetween and has a front waist region and a back waist region, and a crotch region positioned therebetween. The diaper has end flaps extending outwards from respective end edges of the core and side flaps extending outwards from respective side edges of the core, and opening, which pass through the top sheet and the core, formed in at least the crotch region. The back sheet has a free portion which is disposed beneath the core and extendible downwards in its thickness direction and a fixed edge portion which is outside an outer periphery of the free portion and fixed to the top sheet. A plurality of contractible elastic members extend in the longitudinal direction and are disposed at least in the free portion and the fixed edge portion. A plurality of gathers extending in a transverse direction are formed under the contraction of the elastic members.